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ANSWERS

TO

QUESTIONS SUBMITTED

TO THE

INSPECTORS

OF THE

PHILADELPHIA COUNTY PRISON,

BY THE

COMMITTEE

OF

THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES,

Appointed in December, 1836, to Visit and Report on the Management and Economy of the Eastern Penitentiary, House of Refuge, and the Philadelphia County Prison.

✓
Pennsylvania

27.3
Read in the House of Representatives, March 11, 1837.



Philadelphia:

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1837.
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HV 8358
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1837

At a stated meeting of the Board of Inspectors of the Philadelphia County Prison, held on Tuesday, March 7th, 1837; It was on motion,

Resolved, That the Report made to the Board, of answers to the queries propounded, by the Committee of the House of Representatives, be sanctioned, and that the President P. T. and Clerk, be directed to certify the same, and cause them to be forwarded to the Committee at Harrisburg.

A true extract from the Minutes.

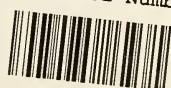


Witness our hands and the seal of the said Prison, this eighth day of March, A. D. 1837.

WILLIAM G. ALEXANDER,
President, P. T.

ATTEST
WM. J. CRANS, *Clerk.*

LC Control Number



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To the Committee of the House of Representatives, appointed to visit and examine into the economy and management of the Eastern Penitentiary, House of Refuge, and the Philadelphia County Prison.

GENTLEMEN :

To the queries propounded below, to the Inspectors of the Philadelphia County Prison, the following answers, are respectfully submitted to your consideration.

FIRST—How many persons are engaged in mechanical pursuits?

SECOND—How many Prisoners now engaged in mechanical pursuits, were Tradesmen before their imprisonment, and what is the Yearly value of their products?

THIRD—What kinds of Trades are pursued in Prison?

FOURTH—What is the daily value of the products made in the Prison, estimated by the City price, and what the value at Prison prices?

[If this question cannot be answered by a daily estimate, the Inspectors will please choose another mode of estimation.]

A full answer to the first, second, third and fourth questions will be found in the table marked No. 1.

FIFTH—In what manner is the money arising from the sales of articles manufactured in Prison, disposed of, and how are the sales principally made?

Answer to the 5th question—The moneys arising from the sales are placed in the general fund, out of which have to be paid all the bills for the raw materials, tools, &c. used in manufacturing, and whatever surplus there may be, reduces the expense to the County of Philadelphia, of keeping the Prison. The sales are principally made by an agent or commission merchant, who is always, instructed to obtain the highest possible price.

SIXTH—Is an account of the product of each Prisoner kept? and if so, if there is a surplus left, from the labour of any one prisoner, does he get it upon his discharge?

Answer to question 6—An account is kept with each Prisoner at work, and when discharged, if he has made more than the task assigned him, the Inspectors have heretofore been in the practice of paying one half of the value of the overwork to the Prisoner.

SEVENTH—Do the Prisoners generally prefer to work?

Answer to question 7.—Scarcely an exception.

EIGHTH—How long do Prisoners remain before their trial? we mean the usual length of time they are detained before trial.

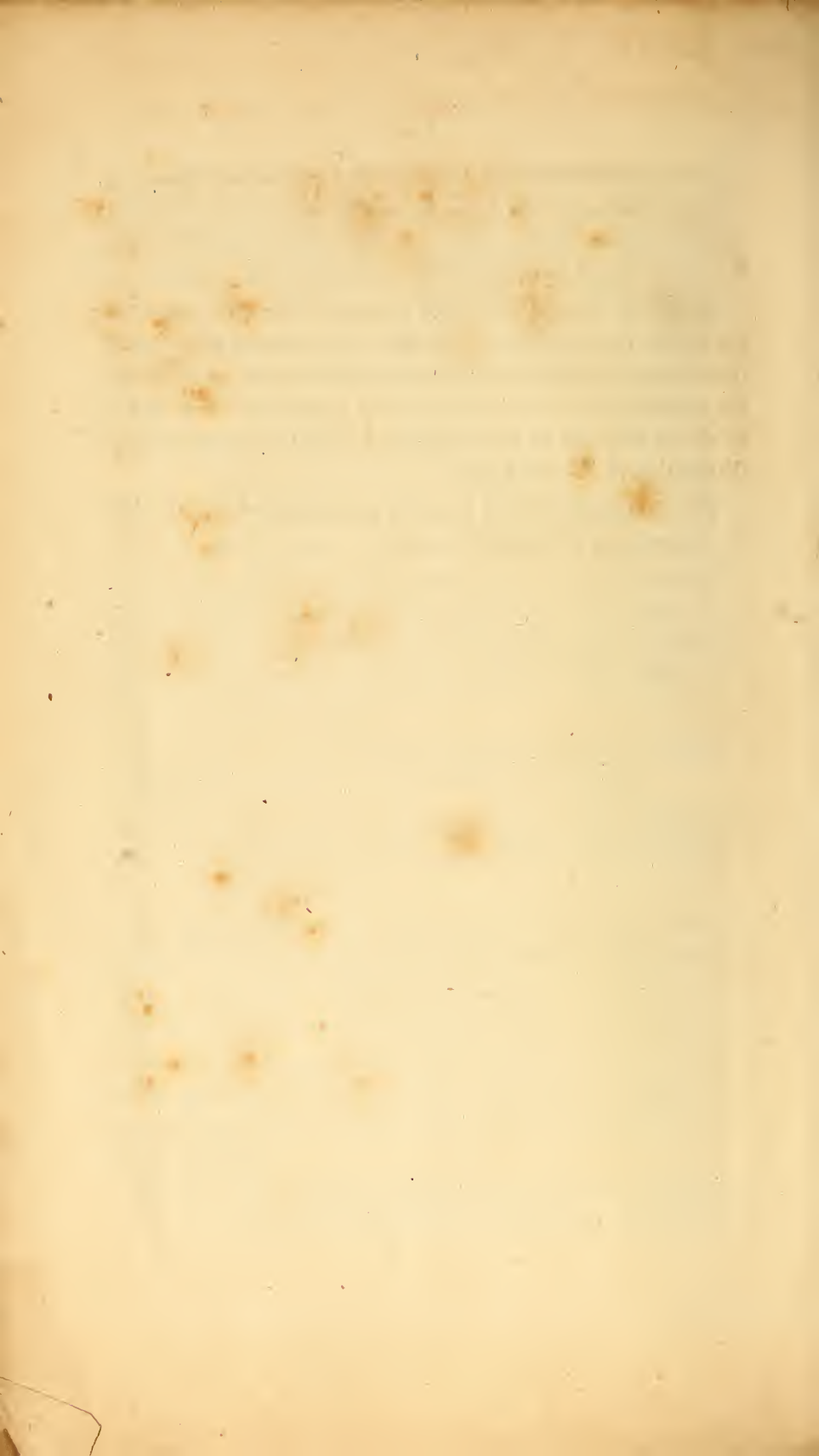
Answer to question 8.—That depends upon what time the Prisoner may have been committed, and then again, whether or not he gets bail. If the Prisoner should be committed soon after the adjournment of the Grand Jury, and does not get bail before the next court, he has to remain about three months awaiting trial, and those who are committed at times nearer the commencement of the Court, have so much the shorter time to remain.

NINTH—How many committals were there made to Prison during the year 1836, for what offences, how many

convicted or acquitted, and when discharged; by whom, and for what charges, and by what authority, and what length of time were those confined, who were discharged without trial?

Answer to question 9.—For answers to this question, see the tables marked Nos. 2 and 3. That portion of the question asking for the average time of confinement of those who are discharged without trial, would require more time than could be devoted to answering it, without employing an additional clerk for the Prison.

The tables are formed so as to answer all which we think the Committee intended to inquire.



WEAVING ACCOUNT.

18

EMPLOYED.		YARDS OF CLOTH WOVE.					
Dyers, &c.	Total employed.	Checks.	Plaids.	Stripes.	Total yards.	Number who were Weavers when convicted.	Number who were Weavers but learned in other prisons.
1	33	3334	3333	1333	3333	1	1

No

150N

PHILADELPHIA COUNTY PRISON.

A Statement showing the number of Prisoners employed, and the amount of Work done in the CORDWAINING and WEAVING Departments, for the year 1836.

1836.	CORDWAINING.											WEAVING ACCOUNT.											
	NUMBER EMPLOYED.				DESCRIPTION AND AMOUNT OF WORK DONE.							NUMBER EMPLOYED.				YARDS OF CLOTH WOVE.							
Month.	Making Shoes.	Cobbling.	Binding and Cutting out.	Total employed.	Boots.	Brogans.	Coarse Shoes.	Fine Shoes.	Women's Shoes.	Children's Shoes.	Boys' Shoes.	Number who called them- selves Shoemakers before they were committed.	Weavers.	Spoolers and Winders.	Beaming and Warping.	Dyers, &c.	Total employed.	Checks.	Plaids.	Stripes.	Total yards.	Number who were Wea- vers when convicted.	Number who were Wea- vers but learned in other prisons.
January	28	1	1	30	57	74	69	7	29	.	.	16	36	28	1	1	66	2324	2893	1020	6237	1	1
February	24	1	1	26	52	95	119	1	120	.	.	16	38	31	1	1	71	2370	2838	3844	9052	1	1
March	20	1	2	23	41	190	105	3	65	21	12	16	37	33	2	1	73	2910	2430	4290	9630	1	1
April	24	1	2	27	24	181	39	5	74	34	4	15	38	29	2	1	70	4350	3570	4860	12780	1	2
May	28		1	29	33	175	67	6	100	24	24	9	49	37	2	2	90	3750	3900	3600	11250	2	2
June	32	1	1	34	56	259	77	13	129	28	33	10	49	42	2	2	95	4159	5130	3794	13083	5	2
July	29	1	2	32	61	401	134	.	95	.	.	11	48	40	2	2	92	5040	5790	6930	17760	7	4
August	31	1	2	34	104	409	71	18	69	14	23	15	50	38	2	2	92	4560	6210	6480	17250	7	5
September	28	1	1	30	89	288	35	2	60	115	12	17	48	36	3	3	90	3960	5370	3120	12450	8	5
October	28	1	2	31	48	352	50	.	74	93	.	15	46	36	3	3	88	3660	5700	3240	12600	10	4
November	39	1	1	41	90	421	31	6	112	59	9	16	52	46	3	2	103	4740	5280	6690	16710	13	7
December	38		1	39	44	455	48	.	43	69	8	20	50	44	3	3	100	3240	4410	5400	13050	10	6
					*699	3300	845	61	970	457	125							45063	53521	53268	151852		

* In this number are calculated 68 pairs fine boots and footings.

REMARKS ON CORDWAINING.

RECAPITULATION.

68 prs	Fine Boots made and footed	a	\$ 2 50	170 00
631 "	Coarse Boots made	"	80	504 80
3300 "	Brogans,	"	53	1749 00
*845 "	Shocs,	"	37½	316 87
61 "	Fine Shoes,	"	100	61 00
970 "	Women's Shoes,	"	37½	363 75
457 "	Children's Shoes,	"	28	127 96
125 "	Boy's Shoes,	"	40	50 00
6457	Total pairs.	Total value of labour		3343 38

* This work is done by learners, and is only used for prisoner's wear.

These prices are the Prison Prices for work, and are as near as possible to the City Prices for work of the same quality. The principal Shoe work done is the Brogans, and they are chiefly made up and sold by the Prison at prices varying from \$ 1 20 to 1 28, the larger portion at the latter price.

The average price per pair, for making a total of 6457 pairs is near 51½ cents. The average number of pairs made by each man is 206 3-5, and the average number of men employed for the year 1836 is 31 1-3, which will make the yearly earnings of each man, \$106 70-100, which at 300 working days will make the daily average of earnings to be 35 1-3 cents.

REMARKS ON WEAVING ACCOUNT.

The first calculation below, will show the value of one year's manufacture of Domestics, valued at the average price, the same have been sold for, by the Agent of the Prison.

The second calculation will show what the same quantity of Domestics of a similar quality have sold for, *not* of prison manufacture. These prices are estimated by the actual sales of one of the principal domestic houses in the City, and entirely unconnected with any prison manufactured goods.

FIRST CALCULATION.

45063 yards	Checks, average value in 1836,	18½	\$ 8449 32
53521 "	Plaids,	do. 13½	7225 33
53268 "	Stripes,	do. 13½	7191 23
151852	Total Yards.	Total value,	\$ 22865 88

SECOND CALCULATION.

45063 yards	Checks average sales as above	18½	\$ 8449 32
53521 "	Plaids,	do. in 1836, 11½	6021 11
53268 "	Stripes,	do. do. 11½	5992 65
151852	Total Yards.	Total value,	\$ 20463 08

* Difference in favor of Prison Sales for one year, \$ 2402 80

With a view to arrive at a daily estimate, the following is submitted. The value of all the labour on a yard of cloth have been estimated by several of the principal establishments in the city unconnected with prison labour.

For the labour on 45063 yds. Checks, at 8½ yer yard, \$ 3771 63
Do. 106789 " Stripes and Plaids at 5½, 5472 93

Total value of labour, \$ 9244 56

The average number of prisoners employed through the year is 85.5-6, and the average value of the labour of each one employed is \$ 107.70-100, which, at 300 working days to the year is 35.2-3 cts. per day.

* Shewing that the Prison labour is of great advantage to the out-door manufacturer, inasmuch as the prices are higher.



from January 1st to June 1st; and in the
December 31st, 1836.

Contempt of Court.	1	1	1	1	1	1
Contempt of Magistrate.	1	1	1	1	1	1
Disorderly House.	2	2	1	1	1	1
Disorderly, and for Breaches of the Peace.	59	40	25	23	23	38
Disobedient Apprentices.	5	2	7	5	5	3
Deserting his family and abusing his wife.	1	2	6	1	1	1
Desertion from Vessel.	1	1	1	2	1	1
Defrauding and Cheating.	1	1	1	1	1	1
Forcible Entry.	1	1	1	1	1	1
Forgery and uttering Counterfeit Notes.	1	1	4	1	1	1

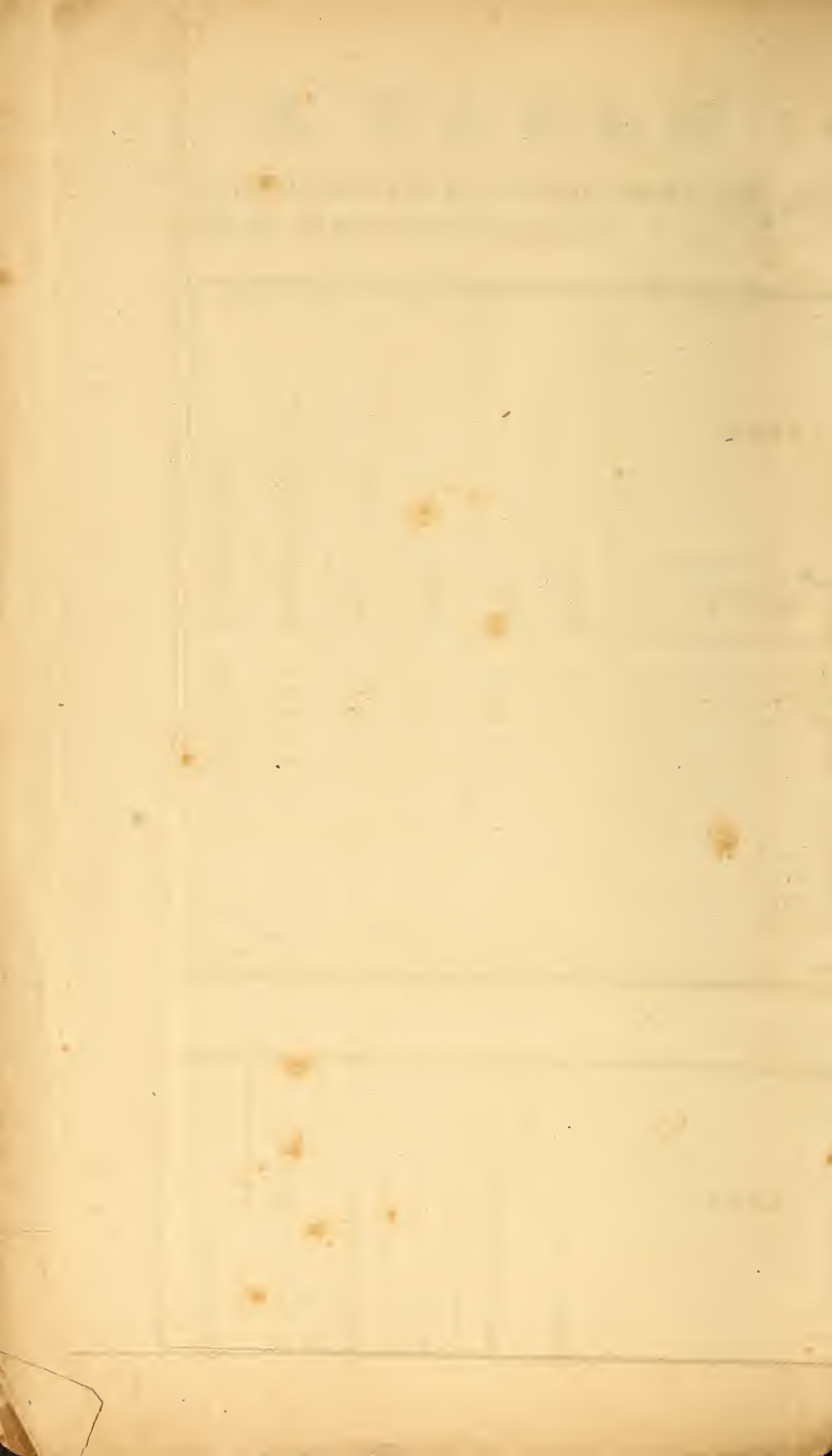
A T A B L E

Showing the whole number of Commitments for the year 1836, in the Arch Street Prison, from January 1st to June 1st; and in the untried apartment in the Philadelphia County Prison, from June 1st to December 31st, 1836.

1836.																											
MONTH.	Adultery.	Affray.	Assault.	Assault to Murder.	Assault to commit a Rape.	A sault and Battery.	Abseonding Apprentice.	Assault to Rescue.	Abuse, and Abuse & Threatening.	Accessaries to Murder.	Arson.	Bawdy House.	Bigamy.	Burglary.	Conspiracy.	Concealing the death of her child.	Contempt of Court.	Contempt of Magistrate.	Disorderly House.	Disorderly, and for Breaches of the Peace.	Disobedient Apprentices.	Deserting his family and abusing his wife.	Desertion from Vessel.	Defrauding and Cheating.	Forcible Entry.	Forgery and uttering Counterfeit Notes.	
JANUARY.....	—	1	—	1	—	36	3	—	21	—	—	—	1	4	2	—	—	—	1	38	3	1	—	—	—	1	
FEBRUARY.....	2	1	—	—	—	36	5	—	8	—	—	—	—	3	—	1	—	—	1	23	5	1	—	—	—	—	
MARCH.....	—	2	5	—	—	54	1	—	20	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	1	—	2	25	7	6	—	—	—	4	
APRIL.....	—	—	1	—	1	54	4	—	20	—	—	1	3	2	—	—	—	—	1	40	2	2	—	—	—	—	
MAY.....	1	7	2	—	—	44	2	—	33	—	—	—	—	2	—	—	—	—	3	59	5	1	—	—	—	—	
JUNE.....	—	—	—	—	—	67	4	—	29	—	—	—	1	1	—	—	—	—	—	86	3	—	—	—	—	2	
JULY.....	1	3	6	—	—	89	6	1	49	—	—	2	—	3	—	—	—	1	2	143	5	3	2	2	1	—	
AUGUST.....	3	—	3	1	1	117	4	—	44	—	2	2	1	1	3	—	—	1	3	140	1	1	6	2	—	21	
SEPTEMBER.....	3	—	2	3	—	79	8	—	40	4	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	3	87	4	—	2	2	—	1	
OCTOBER.....	3	—	1	1	—	82	3	—	23	—	—	—	—	3	—	—	—	—	—	45	2	—	1	2	—	1	
NOVEMBER.....	—	1	11	—	—	51	3	—	7	—	—	—	—	2	—	—	—	—	1	55	1	—	5	—	—	—	
DECEMBER.....	1	—	2	—	—	40	2	2	33	—	—	1	2	4	2	—	—	—	3	84	4	3	6	1	—	1	
Total,	14	15	33	6	2	749	45	3	327	4	2	6	8	26	7	1	1	3	18	825	42	18	24	8	2	31	

TABLE CONTINUED.

1836.	Fornication.	Fornication and Bastardy.	Fugitive Slaves.	Fugitives from Justice.	Gaming House and Gambling.	Highway Robbery.	Indecency.	Intoxication.	Malicious Mischief.	Manslaughter.	Misdemeanor, not otherwise enumerated.	Murder.	Mail Robbery.	Perjury.	Profanity and Profane Swearing.	Rape.	Receiving Stolen Goods.	Riot.	Robbery.	Stealing.	Suspicious persons.	Sending a Challenge.	Tipping House.	Vagrants.	TOTAL.
MONTH.																									
JANUARY	1	2	1	1	1	2	1	17	1	1	3	1	1	1	1	1	3	1	1	76	1	1	1	62	232
FEBRUARY	1	3	1	1	1	1	1	19	1	1	3	1	1	1	3	1	1	7	49	1	1	1	41	215	
MARCH.....	1	2	1	2	1	1	1	19	1	1	2	1	1	1	5	1	1	6	83	1	1	1	50	298	
APRIL.....	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	9	1	1	3	1	1	1	3	1	1	5	47	1	1	1	70	271	
MAY.....	1	1	3	1	1	1	1	23	1	1	10	2	1	1	5	1	1	16	64	1	1	1	91	377	
JUNE.....	1	1	5	1	1	1	1	8	1	1	4	1	1	1	1	1	1	3	60	1	1	1	86	367	
JULY.....	1	3	2	1	1	1	1	11	1	1	3	1	1	1	2	1	1	3	62	2	1	1	68	478	
AUGUST.....	1	3	2	2	1	1	1	12	1	1	2	1	1	1	4	1	3	9	48	1	1	1	42	487	
SEPTEMBER.....	1	1	1	1	3	1	1	16	1	1	3	1	1	1	3	1	1	6	62	3	1	1	52	393	
OCTOBER.....	1	2	2	1	1	1	1	14	1	1	2	1	1	1	6	1	1	3	63	5	1	1	20	285	
NOVEMBER.....	1	1	2	1	1	1	1	12	1	1	2	1	1	1	2	1	1	1	88	1	1	1	17	264	
DECEMBER.....	1	1	2	1	3	1	1	8	1	2	2	1	1	3	6	1	4	6	59	1	1	1	14	302	
Total	2	19	21	7	9	3	2	168	2	2	39	6	2	5	41	1	11	64	14	761	2	1	4	613	4019



Showing the number of discharges in the year 1836.

By who and what authority discharges of those committed in each month, as shewn by Table No. 2, were made.

	JANUARY	FEBRUARY	MARCH	APRIL	MAY	JUNE	JULY	AUGUST	SEPTEMBER	OCTOBER	NOVEMBER	DECEMBER	TOTAL.
By the Magistrates who committed.....	112	105	154	136	213	146	214	214	181	129	112	126	1822
Time being out.....	64	50	58	66	76	37	33	26	38	29	26	22	525
Inspectors of the Prison.....	—	—	—	—	—	70	97	98	71	30	20	51	437
Callender of the Courts.....	46	13	26	20	26	40	46	52	41	36	27	15	378
Conviction	29	24	43	29	21	25	19	23	25	23	45	21	327
Judges of the Courts.....	16	13	19	9	24	32	53	60	23	26	14	24	313
Attorney General.....	7	7	14	4	10	16	13	11	11	13	8	5	119
Attorney for Guardians of the Poor.	—	1	1	—	—	—	1	—	1	—	—	—	4
Death.....	7	2	3	7	6	1	2	1	1	1	2	2	33
Sheriff.....	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	5	10	36	7
* Unsatisfied.....	1	—	—	—	1	—	—	2	1	3	—	—	54
Total.....	282	215	298	271	377	367	478	487	393	285	264	302	4019

* By "unsatisfied" is shown the number of charges for each month, that have not been tried.

NOTE. The first five months of this Table is compiled from the books of the late Arch Street Prison, and the last seven months from the books of the Philadelphia County Prison. The whole table shows an unbroken statement for one year of Discharges.

It is worthy of remark, the difference in the Mortality of the two Prisons, there are no less than 25 deaths in five months in the Arch Street Prison, and only eight in seven months in the untried apartment of the Philadelphia County Prison, or 25 deaths out of 1443 committed to the Arch Street Prison, and only 8 deaths out of 2576 committed to the Philadelphia County Prison

This speaks volumes in favour of solitary confinement.

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